

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 FBO-02 SCS-03 DODE-00

USIA-06 /085 W

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P R 082050Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9837

INFO COMNAVBASE GTMO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, JM

SUBJECT: U.S. EMBASSY SECURITY

REF: (A) KINGSTON 0098, (B) KINGSTON 0099

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER NATIONAL SECURITY MUNN AFTERNOON JANUARY 8 TO DELIVER SECOND LETTER REQUESTING ASSURANCES OF SECURITY PROTECTION FOR ALL U.S. PREMISES KINGSTON (FIRST LETTER CITED REFTEL A). MUNN OFFERED ORAL ASSURANCES AND SAID HE WOULD FOLOW UP WITH WRITTEN REPLY TO LETTER.

2. MUNN CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS TO EFFECT PM MANLEY AND MINISTER MUNN YESTERDAY DECIDED TERMINATE ALL STATIC POLICE GUARD POSTS IN KINGSTON. INSTEAD OF STATIC POSTS, SECURITY IN KINGSTON AREA, INCLUDING FOR U.S. OFFICES AND EMBASSY RESIDENCE, WILL BE PROVIDED BY FREQUENT MOBILE POLICE PATROLS. THIS DECISION IN LARGE MEASURE RESULTED FROM POLICE PRESSURES WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY PEAKED WITH SLAYING AND WOUNDING OF POLICE AT STATIC POSTS IN SEVERAL AREAS YESTERDAY--INCLUDING AT U.S. CONSULATE. MUNN ADDED THAT EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS HAVE PRECIPITATED A SERIES OF SIGNIFICANT
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"DECISIVE DECISIONS" REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND

ORDER BUT DID NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAILS.

3. MUNN ADMITTED GOJ INCLUDING PM FULLY AWARE THAT PNP YOUTH BEHIND YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATION AND ATTACK ON U.S. CONSULATE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID PM HAD CALLED IN PNP YOUTH LEADERS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND HAD "LAID DOWN THE LAW IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS." BEYOND THIS, POLICE AND ARMY HAVE CORDONED OFF MUCH OF THE TRENCH TOWN AREA (WHICH HAS BEEN FOCUS OF ARMED POLITICAL WARFARE DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS) AND ARE CONDUCTING "MASSIVE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES." FROM HIS DESCRIPTION OF AREA BEING SEARCHED, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FOCUS IS ON OPPOSITION JLP-CONTROLLED AREA. MUNN OFFERED NO SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT OF GENERAL OUTLOOK OVER NEXT FEW DAYS BUT IMPLIED THAT SITUATION IS BEING BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.

4. AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST MUNN DESIGNATED HEAD OF JAMAICAN MOBILE POLICE RESERVE TO LIAISON WITH EMBASSY ON SECURITY. AMBASSADOR HAS DESIGNATED DEFENSE ATTACHE AS EMBASSY POINT OF CONTACT.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOTHING WAS VERY EXPLICIT, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM MUNN'S STATEMENTS THAT SECURITY MEASURES NOW UNDERWAY (ASIDE FROM THOSE DESIGNED TO PROTECT U.S. EMBASSY) ARE LESS THAN EVENHANDED AND ARE CONCENTRATING ON JLP STRONGHOLDS. MOREOVER, WE ARE BY NO MEANS SANGUINE THAT SITUATION IS ANYWHERE NEAR BEING UNDER CONTROL OR THAT MOBILE POLICE PATROLS WILL BE ABLE PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY TO ALL U.S. OFFICES AND EMBASSY RESIDENCE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PROVIDE DOUBLE MARINE GUARD COVERAGE TO MAIN CHANCERY BUT ARE UNABLE TO EXTEND ANY MARINE COVERAGE TO ANY OTHER OFFICES OR TO RESIDENCE. FOR THE MOMENT IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO CLOSE ON SHORT NOTICE TEMPORARILY THE CONSULATE IF A NEW THREAT APPEARS LIKELY. WE ARE ALSO CONTRACTING FOR PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS FOR CONSULATE OFFICES AND EMBASSY RESIDENCE.

6. FINALLY, FOR THE RECORD, WE HAVE DISPATCHED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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REMINDS GOJ OF ITS SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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